

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

In the claims:

1.-9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently Amended) An antisense oligonucleotide ~~according to claim 1 having~~ ~~against SMAD7 comprising sequence~~ (SEQ ID No 15[1]): 5'-ZTXGCCCTTCTCCCXGCAZC-3', wherein X is 5-methyl 2'-deoxycytidine 5'-monophosphate and Z is 2'- deoxyguanosine methylphosphonate, or the complementary sequence thereto.

11.-19. (Canceled)

20. (Currently Amended) A composition comprising the antisense oligonucleotide of claim [[18]] 10 and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

21. (Currently Amended) A method of treating inflammatory bowel disease, comprising administering to a patient in need thereof a pharmaceutically acceptable amount of the antisense oligonucleotide of claim [[1]] 10.

22. (Canceled)

23. (Currently Amended) A method of treating Crohn's disease or ulcerative colitis, comprising administering to a patient in need thereof a pharmaceutically acceptable amount of the antisense oligonucleotide of claim [[1]] 10.

24. (Canceled)

25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 23, wherein the antisense oligonucleotide is administered orally.

26. (New) The antisense oligonucleotide of claim 10 wherein at least one internucleoside linkage is a methylphosphonate linkage.

27. (New) The antisense oligonucleotide of claim 10 wherein the oligonucleotide comprises at least one methylphosphonate linkage and at least one phosphorothioate linkage.

28. (New) The antisense oligonucleotide of claim 10 wherein 2'-deoxyribonucleotides are replaced by corresponding ribonucleotides.

29. (New) The antisense oligonucleotide of claim 10 wherein the oligonucleotide comprises up to 21 nucleotides in length.